



PLACER COUNTY
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EDWARD N. BONNER
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STEPHEN L. D'ARCY
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, January 18, 2006 2 p.m.
Date/Time of Occurrence Wednesday, January 18, 2006
Nature of Event: Gun Lock Program Saving Lives
Location of Call: Placer County
Released by: Dena Erwin (530) 889-6922

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

Since the Placer County Sheriff's Department joined a nationwide effort to prevent loaded guns from falling into the hands of children, accidental fatalities involving firearms are at a historical low.

Project ChildSafe's message of responsible firearm ownership was spread by 14,000 law enforcement agencies that have given out more than 32 million free gun locks and safety kits since its inception in 2003. Over the past seven years, the number of children under the age of 14 involved in firearm accidents has declined 60 percent.

"I'm very proud that our participation in this important project has resulted in fewer tragedies involving children and guns," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "But parents must be ever-vigilant. Keeping guns locked and away from kids is the only way to assure their safety."

Project ChildSafe was developed by the National Shooting Sports Foundation and primarily funded by federal grants administered by the U.S. Department of Justice. It is the nation's largest and most comprehensive firearm safety education program. Its goal is to ensure safe and responsible firearm ownership and storage so that tragic accidents can be prevented, particularly among children.

Firearm safety kits that include a gun-locking device are still available at all Placer County Sheriff's locations, including Auburn, Loomis, Granite Bay, Foresthill, Colfax and Lake Tahoe.